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NEWSLETTER

Of The

California Arboretum Foundation

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Retiring Staff Members Honored at Recent Arboretum Luncheon

Katherine and Mark Anthony, Glenn Hiatt and Joyce Day at a luncheon honoring retiring staff members.

On December 21 Director Francis Ching gave a luncheon in the Lecture Hall honoring retiring members of the Department. Four of those honored had their offices on the Arboretum grounds: Glenn Hiatt, retiring after 17 years with the Department and 11 years as Assistant Director; Joyce Day, who started to work here before the County took over in 1953, was a stenographer under the directorship of Russell Seibert and served as secretary to directors William Stewart and Francis Ching; Ruth Taylor, a part-time clerical worker in the Library for 17 years; Jess Tomory, who started at Descanso Gardens in 1956, came to the Arboretum in 1958, and was a Senior Equipment Maintenance Man at the time of his retirement. Others honored at the party were Mark Anthony, Superintendent of Descanso Gardens, and Henry Noerdlinger, Tour Guide at South Coast Botanic Garden.

Except for skeleton crews necessary to keep the gardens open, all Department workers came to the party

Ruth Taylor

and were treated to a banquet, barbecued beef cooked by Chef Ching with the help of Earl Ross and Earl Breitbarth. Janice Kohler and Chris Van Wagner made the seating arrangements while Joe Pagone and Richard Barnes made certain there were enough tables and chairs. Foundation President, Tootie Grivich, and her husband, John, made a heap of delicious rice. Frances Raitt, Pam and Frank Simerly, and volunteers, Mary Atkinson and Carol Brayshaw, tossed a ton of greens into a tasty salad, and the meal was topped off with apple pie. One hundred and seven attended the luncheon which was followed by Christmas music and songs by John Grutzmacher, Bruce Dustman, and Mike Thorne, and then a brief speech by the Direc-

(Con't. on page 2)

Jess Tomory and Francis Ching

RETIRING STAFF MEMBERS—

(Con't. from page 1)

tor and the presentation of gifts to those being honored. A committee headed by Chris Van Wagner had to do a lot of research to find appropriate gifts for persons of such varied talents and interests. Their excellent choice of presents was revealed as each gift was unwrapped to enthusiastic endorsement by the audience as well as the recipient. We are sad to see these staff members leave and hope they will return often to check up on us.

Elaine Ching, wife of the Director, and Roy Ito, new Assistant Director, at December luncheon honoring retiring staff members.

LASCA NEWS To Be Published Bimonthly

LASCA LEAVES has been a publication of the California Arboretum Foundation since the first issue of Autumn 1950. In 1971 *LASCA LEAVES* became a publication of the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, reaching out to encompass articles and news from all three facilities. Members of the Descanso Gardens Guild and South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, as well as our members, receive *LASCA LEAVES* as a membership privilege.

While we now share the pages of *LASCA LEAVES* with the other gardens, our membership has almost tripled and programs initiated by the volunteers and the Foundation have multiplied to the extent that there is a need for more communication between the Foundation and its members. Thus, with this issue of *LASCA NEWS*, a name used by the Foundation in the past for member news, we are undertaking to send to every member a regular bimonthly newsletter that will be filled with information and pictures about what is going on at your Arboretum. Since the volunteer newsletter *PRENSA VOLUNTARIA* will be replaced by *LASCA NEWS*, prime space in this newsletter will be given to volunteer activities as our volunteers are the very lifeblood of the Foundation organization.

Osteospermum fruiticosum is an Arboretum introduction. Watch for it right now along the freeways. It is a low growing white daisy that is making a dazzling display. Foundation members should be proud that their Arboretum is responsible for this beautiful addition to the Southern California landscape.

LASCA NEWS is published six times a year by the California Arboretum Foundation. The NEWSLETTER is included as a benefit of membership, annual dues starting at $10 per year.

Photographs by
LUAINE SCHELIGA

Editor
ALICE FROST DOUGLAS

Fourth Baldwin Bonanza To Be Held April 7 In The Demonstration Home Gardens

Mary Gerry by Vance Gerry

Mary Gerry, Chairlady of the 1974 Bonanza says, "This is going to be the greatest Bonanza of them all!" She refused to have her picture taken but her husband, an artist for Walt Disney Productions, obligingly made the accompanying sketch of Mary for us. More plants than ever before will be on sale with Jane Buck in charge of sun plants, including geraniums, succulents with Jean O'Toole and Doris Karnes gathering a wide variety together, and the ever popular Arboretum plant introductions. Betty Price is heading the shade plant section with Cathy Cathcart in charge of begonias and orchids, Nancy Cole in charge of ferns and palms, Wendy Taylor in charge of hanging baskets, and Betty taking charge of houseplants. Margaret Mauk, leader in the herb department, says that Herb Society members will be on hand to serve tea—hot or cold.

The Craft Committee, under the leadership of Inger Dix, has become a vital year around supplier of saleable items to the Gift Shop besides the very important part they contribute to the Baldwin Bonanza. In spite of this constant demand for their products, the committee has turned out a great collection of new and original items that will be for sale exclusively at the Bonanza. Committee members are Ruth Allinson, Ruth Brankey, Alma Grote, Ann Grove, Jane Holmes, Esther Jones, Anna May Meek, and Ann Slavik. Other volunteers have helped off and on throughout the year but these ladies are the core of this important group.

Jane Wise is contacting nurseries for plant donations. The first Foundation members to step forward with donations of plant material for the sale are Marie Armstrong and Judge Sprankle, whose talented secretary, Cecelia Terry, will be donating several of her beautiful basket planters. Liz Eberwine is in charge of the cookie and coffee booth, Marilyn Bochte is working on publicity, Phyllis Chapman has taken charge of the raffle and promises such elegant prizes as a patio furniture set donated by Brown Jordan and a lath house donated by Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturers, and to get the raffle off to a good start, the Glendora Printers, Foundation members, donated all the tickets. The raffle is going to be one of the biggest things going at this year's Bonanza. Tickets will be 50c each or three for a dollar. All trustees and volunteers are going to be asked to sell at least one book of tickets and there will be a grand prize for the person selling the most tickets. We hope all our members will help sell raffle tickets. They can be picked up in the Gift Shop.

Foundation members will be invited to a special preview of the Baldwin Bonanza on Saturday evening, April 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This gives members of the Foundation first choice of all Bonanza sale items. The popularity of the Baldwin Bonanza and the resulting increase in attendance at both the preview and the Sunday sale forced the event from the sheltering roof of the Lecture Hall into the Demonstration Home Gardens last year. We were blessed with clear weather for the weekend and hope that we will be as lucky this year. The preview promises to be a gay affair with Colleen O'Neill in charge and members

(Con't. on page 4)

Jeanette Sloan and Inger Dix

BALDWIN BONANZA—

(Con't. from page 3)

looking forward to good bargains, tasty refreshments, and a meeting with friends in a beautiful setting.

On Bonanza Sunday booths will open at 9:30 a.m. and there will be demonstrations of plant dyes by Jeanette Sloan, Terrarium Planting by Ethel Talley, and Uses of Dried Materials by Ruth Brankey. There will be a clown (Joan Turner) to amuse the children, plenty of snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, hot dogs, Pepsi-Cola, and balloons. For those with more discriminating stomachs, lunch can be purchased in the Coffee Shop.

This is a mere outline of all the things that will be going on and the

Ruth Brankey

names of the ladies in charge. What is needed are the workers to fill out the committees. WE NEED ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WE CAN GET FOR BOTH SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY. Please come to the aid of your Arboretum and volunteer your services by calling 447-8207. Volunteer president, Mitzi Moore, is setting up "rest, refresh, and recuperate" headquarters in the Seminar Room. It will be open all day Sunday and all workers are invited to relax and eat there—"on the house."

This is going to be *THE BIG BONANZA*. Mary Gerry says it is so. All the money raised by this project of Las Voluntarias for the California Arboretum Foundation will go toward the Hall of Environmental Education, a much needed building for classes, meetings, and shows.

Foundation President Appoints New Finance Committee

A need for a committee to review the investment of Foundation funds was precipitated by the fund raising activities of the volunteers in recent years and the large growth in memberships and donations to the Foundation.

Frank Regan

Frank Regan, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation, was appointed as chairman of the Finance Committee and two members of the Foundation, Warren Dunbar, vice president and manager of the Arcadia office of the Bank of America, and D. Ramsay Lawson, certified public accountant and a partner in the firm of Guill, Blankenbaker, & Lawson, were simultaneously appointed to the Executive and Finance Committees.

Frank Regan, owner of the Santa Anita Camera Shop, has been a member of the Foundation board of trustees for the past two years and treasurer of the board since last June when he was appointed to that position by the President, Tootie Grivich.

The combined advice of a businessman, a certified public accountant,

Warren Dunbar

and a banker, will now guide the Foundation in a sound course of investment so that funds being held in reserve for specified projects can be increased and protected until such time as they are needed.

D. Ramsay Lawson

Tabebuia chrysotricha (an Arboretum introduction), the golden trumpet tree, will be in full flower from the middle of March. It is worth a special trip to your Arboretum to see this tree in bloom.

Horticultural Field Day To Be Held May 18th and 19th

Under the guidance of Frank Simerly, Acting Assistant Director, the Arboretum is planning to offer two entire days filled with displays and demonstrations concerning horticulture. Called a *SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA* it will indeed be a spectacular production giving the home gardener and the amateur horticulturist a wealth of information and advice.

Sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation, exhibits will be mounted by the San Gabriel Valley Begonia Society, San Gabriel Valley Orchid Society, Iris Society, Santa Anita Bonsai Society, Herb Society, Rose Society, Gladiolus Society, Cactus and Succulent Society, Epiphyllum Society, and the Hemerocallis and Amaryllis Society.

In the Demonstration Home Gardens there will appropriately be demonstrations about composting, terrariums and bubbles, grafting, cuttings, layering, care of house plants, hanging baskets, bonsai, and container gardening.

The research labs, nursery, and growing houses will be open to visitors and there will be a chance to buy Arboretum plant introductions and some rare and specialty plants.

At the Information Center, brochures will be distributed and staff members will be present to answer questions on fertilizers, pest and weed controls, plant selections, ground covers, plant and weed identification, and plants for fire prevention and erosion control.

Home gardeners and horticultural enthusiasts should mark May 18 and 19 on their calendars now for this first horticulturally extravagant weekend that will come to you as a present at your Arboretum.

Need a present for your "green thumb" friend? Find it in the Arboretum Gift Shop. We have the largest selection of books on horticultural subjects in the Valley. We even have a present for your "all thumbs" friend—an exquisite dried flower arrangement.

Las Voluntarias Orientation Course Held in January

Provisional members of Las Voluntarias tour Queen Anne Cottage during Orientation Course.

Las Voluntarias has customarily held a series of lectures to introduce new members to the staff and facilities of the Arboretum in September. This year the first vice president in charge of volunteer training, Peggy Dorsett, decided to do a switch and have the orientation course in January. With the rush of returning children to school after summer vacation and the dash through the holiday season behind them, Peggy reasoned that her trainees might be more inclined to settle into lectures and a busy volunteer schedule. The January orientation course was, with the exception of a downpour on the first meeting date, a tremendous success. Forty-five provisional members were welcomed by the Director, Francis Ching, and Ruth Mary Larson, President of Las Voluntarias. *George Spalding, the first Superintendent of the garden and until recently the Horticultural Botanical Consultant, reviewed the history of the development of the Arboretum. After Tootie Grivich, President, and Dolores Hubbell, Executive Secretary, of the California Arboretum Foundation, outlined the role and programs of that organization, the provisionals were launched into a four day schedule that took them to all sections of the Arboretum and introduced them to many members of the staff. All active members of Las Voluntarias have at one time completed this orientation course and are much the wiser. Some volunteers have taken the course every year, just to keep up with all that is new or to delve deeper in areas of particular interest to them. The more our volunteers know about the Arboretum, the more valuable they are in their volunteer work on the grounds and as public relation representatives anywhere in the world.

* This was the last class of volunteers privileged to have George Spalding tell of the early Arboretum days as he suddenly passed away on January 12. His death has caused a large hole in the staff of the Arboretum and it can never be filled. A tribute to George will be in the next issue of *LASCA LEAVES*.

It is with deep regret that we report that Edna Kettle has resigned as bookkeeper in the Foundation Office. During her nine years as a member of the staff, she saw the Foundation move from a one room office in the Administration Building with the gift shop in the Gatehouse to its present quarters in the Peacock Pavilion. We will all miss her friendly manners and helpfulness. Our many good wishes go with Edna.

Las Voluntarias Installs New Officers At Annual Meeting

Mitzi Moore receives the president's gavel from Ruth Mary Larson.

On Monday, January 21, Las Voluntarias commenced its 8th year with a grand meeting in the Lecture Hall of the Arboretum attended by over one hundred members. Annual reports were given by all the chairladies and it was astounding to hear of the tremendous variety of jobs filled by the volunteers throughout the Arboretum.

Forty provisional members who had completed the orientation course were given their permanent identification badges and, for the first time, Los Ayudantes had two members graduate from the training course, George Jack and Stan Bailey.

This was actually a two way first. It was the first time men had taken the orientation course and it was the first time a couple, Marie and George Jack, had taken the course together. Marie is a cheerful and faithful worker in the Gift Shop, and George, who has worked in the Garden for all Seasons since its inception, is the new chairman of the project. Stan Bailey is the father of Las Voluntarias member Donna Tierno.

The slate of officers presented by nominating committee chairlady, Peggy Dorsett, was unanimously accepted and Mitzi Moore will be the new president, Nancy Cole, first vice president, Mary Atkinson, second vice president, and Pat Copley, secretary.

Marie and George Jack

After a standing ovation for Ruth Mary Larson, outgoing president, the meeting was adjourned and members were joined for a salad bar luncheon by all the staff, including the director, who had assisted in the orientation training course.

It was a grand finale to a year of many accomplishments and a grand beginning to a year of many challenges.

The Annual Meeting of the California Arboretum Foundation is scheduled for May Day (May 1). Plan to attend and see and hear about the many things that are happening at your Arboretum.

New officers of Las Voluntarias are Mary Atkinson, Nancy Cole, Mitzi Moore, and Pat Copley.

Volunteer News and Requests

● The next General Meeting of Las Voluntarias will be on Monday, March 11, in the Lecture Hall. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m., the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested in the volunteer program is welcome.

● Margaret Mauk is putting together a Resource Library for the field leaders in the Volunteer Office. She wants donations of shelves, nature magazines, books relating to plants, California history, man and his environment, and also plant fossils, wood samples, dye swatches, tree galls, but no live snakes please. Donations should be put in a bag and marked "Resource Center" and left at the Volunteer Office or Information Center. She also wants 400 three inch plastic pots, apothecary type vitamin bottles, and *Aunt Jane's* pickle jars or similar size for the Herb Booth at the Bonanza.

● Jean O'Toole wants cuttings of the more unusual succulents, plants of *Aloe vera*, two and four inch plastic pots, and clay saucers or bulb pans for dish gardens. This is another Baldwin Bonanza request.

● Joe Erby is head of the grounds safety committee and asks all volunteers and visitors to report to him any unsafe condition such as a slippery walk or sharp branch over a pathway.

● Peggy Dorsett is starting up a Dried Materials Committee. She needs bottle brush seed pods, Jacaranda pods, and eucalyptus caps and pods.

● On April 4th the California Museum Society of Archivists will visit the historical section of the Arboretum and the California Arboretum Foundation, assisted by members of Las Voluntarias, will sponsor a reception for them.

● George Jack, chairman of the Garden for all Seasons, needs people for gardening and watering and would like to know of volunteers who could help him with the ground watering during the summer. Volunteer for one hour, one morning, whatever you can.

● The Arbor Day Committee sent out 900 packets this year to Los Angeles County Schools and the Ontario Unified School District.

● The *HUGO REID ROUNDUP* will be repeated this year as a family party for Foundation members. Instead of a breakfast, it will be an early evening barbecue supper with fishing, marshmallow toasting, dancing, and games for all ages. Summer date to be decided.

● Mary Atkinson, second vice president, asks all volunteers to please remember to report their hours to the chairperson in the section where they are working. Hours spent for the Arboretum, but not under a chairperson, should be regularly reported on a card dropped into the HOUR DRAWER in the Volunteer Office. Volunteer hours include driving time, orientation, meetings, plus your regular job. Your volunteer hours are very important to the Arboretum. They are more valuable than money.

● The next executive committee meeting of Las Voluntarias will be April 22 in the Lecture Hall. The meeting has been set at a later date to allow time for a complete report on expenses and profits from the Baldwin Bonanza.

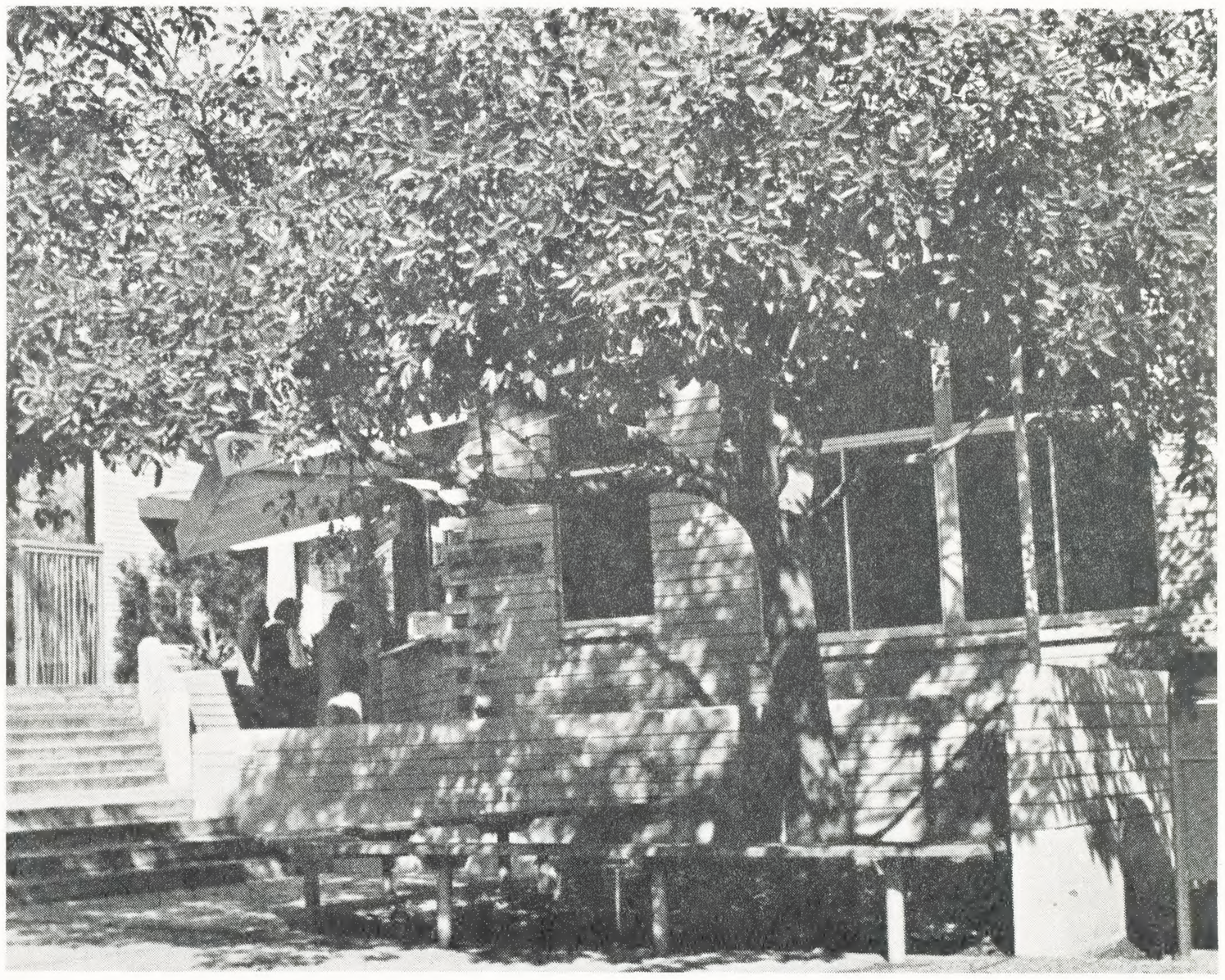
VOLUNTEER OFFICE OPENS ON REGULAR SCHEDULE

Since the middle of February the Volunteer Office (the old gatehouse) is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Coffee is ready and the welcome mat out for all volunteers and Foundation members to come in and visit during those hours.

You can check your possessions and rest your feet. As soon as we can get more voluunteers to staff the office, we will be able to keep it open for longer hours.

Regular weekend volunteers are especially needed. If you can help, call 447-8207 and leave a message for Cathy Cathcart, the chairlady putting this all together.

Celebrate Arbor Day, March 7, and every day by planting a tree or getting involved in an Arboretum project.



Erythrina falcata shades the new Information Center built with funds raised by the California Arboretum Foundation and Las Voluntarias with matching funds from the County.

lasca news

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Mark your Calendar!

March	11	Las Voluntarias General Membership Meeting (Lecture Hall)	10:00 a.m.
March	17	Propagation Lecture—Don Fitch (Demonstration Gardens)	2:00 p.m.
March	31	Historical Buildings Walk—Patricia Warren (Meet at Information Center)	10:00 a.m.
April	6	Baldwin Bonanza Preview (Demonstration Gardens)	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
April	7	Baldwin Bonanza (Demonstration Gardens)	9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April	21	Poisonous and Medicinal Plants Walk—Dr. Leonid Enari (Meet at Information Center)	10:00 a.m.
April	22	Las Voluntarias Executive Board Meeting (Lecture Hall)	10:00 a.m.
May	5	Historic Area/Herb Garden Walk—Dr. Leonid Enari (Meet at Information Center)	10:00 a.m.
May 18 and 19		Spring Extravaganza—Horticultural Field Day (Arboretum)	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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